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Jackson Appeals To Ford on Bush

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Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), said yesterday that President Ford should remove Ambassador George Bush, his nominee as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, from his list of potential 1976 running mates.

At the second day of Bush's confirmation hearings before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Jackson declared, "The President has the responsibility here to assure this committee that the term of Bush as CIA director is going to be longer than next August," when the Republican National Convention will select its candidates for President and Vice President.

Bush told the committee he believed his chances of being picked for the ticket were already "insignificant," based on the concerns voiced at the hearings by several senators and his own pledge to

"disappear from the political scene" if he is confirmed.

In a conversation with reporters outside the hearing room, Bush said he had "no objection" if the President removed him from consideration as a running mate. He reportedly was surprised when Mr. Ford named him as a possibility after selecting him for the CIA post.

The committee is expected to meet this afternoon on the Bush nomination.

Chairman Frank Church (D-Idaho) of the Senate intelligence committee testified that he would "make a determined fight against" Bush's confirmation if there is no pledge that the former two-term GOP congressman and Republican national chairman from 1972 to 1974 will not be selected for the 1976 ticket.

Even with such a pledge, Church said, he would vote against Bush because the nominee's highly partisan political background "would set a wrong standard" for his and future nominations, and "make a travesty of reform" of the CIA.

Sen. John C. Culver (D-Iowa), a personal friend of Bush's from days when both served in the House, said he would vote against the nomination with "much regret." The next CIA director "ought to be... someone who would be qualified to stay on under an administration of either party," Culver said. Appointing Bush "less than a year away from an election" was a mistake on the President's part, Culver contended.

Both Church and Jackson questioned whether Bush, if confirmed, would supply Congress "on the eve of the election" with intelligence reports "no matter how embarrassing" they might be

to the President. Bush responded cautiously, saying, "I would disclose to the proper authorities in Congress as required. It would have nothing to do if there was an election coming up."

Jackson raised another problem associated with the Bush nomination—the future of the present CIA deputy director, Lt. Gen. Vernon Walters. Walters was a nominee of President Nixon.

With support from Chairman John C. Stennis (D-Miss.), Jackson asked Bush if there were any plans for a replacement for Walters. Bush replied he knew of none but had assurances from President Ford that if he were confirmed, he would "have the right to suggest" persons for the deputy position.